

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 09/978,379

Filed: October 15, 2001

Inventor(s):  
Stephen C. Ennis

**Title:** Starvation Avoidance Mechanism For An I/O Node Of A Computer System

Examiner: Knapp, Justin R.

Group/Art Unit: 2182

Atty. Dkt. No: 5500-71600

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Stephen J. Curran

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

  
Signature

5/17/04  
Date

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF  
March 12, 2004**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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MAY 20 2004

Technology Center 2100

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action of March 12, 2004, to further highlight why the application is in condition for allowance.